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SUBJECT: CHILD PORN DATA BASE TO BE RAISED AT JHA
MINISTERIAL OCTOBER 6

1. Summary. On September 15 the G-8 Lyon Law Enforcement Subgroup formally presented a report on the deployment of an International Child Sexual Exploitation Image Database (ICSE DB) to Interpol. The ICSE DB is intended to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of investigations by improving the accessibility and retrieval by law enforcement of data concerning international child sexual exploitation crimes. Costs for development and initial implementation of the project are estimated at Euro two million, with operation and maintenance costs over one million Euros for a three-year period. The UK has requested that discussion of funding options for the ISCE DB be included on the agenda for the JHA Troika to be held in Washington October 6. End summary.

Background

2. In 2001 under the Italian presidency of the G8, Justice and Interior Ministers directed their officials to find new and more effective measures to counter the sexual exploitation of children on the Internet. The result was the STOP II Feasibility Study which was presented to G8 ministers in December 2002. The feasibility study set out a number of recommendations regarding the use of a sophisticated networked international child sexual exploitation image database, together with the technical and legal requirements to make this a reality. The on-going political will of G8 ministers was reinforced at their meeting in June 2005 in Sheffield when they endorsed the project and committed themselves to working with Interpol to secure the additional resources necessary for Interpol to implement it.

Project Proposal

3. The proposed database would enhance of the existing Interpol child pornography database and should be an effective tool for law enforcement which is currently hampered in fighting these offenses by national borders and limited resources in identifying victims and offenders of child sexual exploitation on-line around the world. The proposed system will be operative 365 days per year, 24 hours per day for Interpol's 182 member countries using Interpol's 24/7 communication network. The report encourages participants to contribute images it uncovers to the database, but recognizes that some national laws proscribe such transfers. In that event, descriptive case data is to be supplied for inclusion in the database. A CD ROM of the Implementation Report has been sent to DOJ Criminal Division attorney Tom Burrows.

4. The Implementation Study indicates the costs for development and initial implementation of the project at approximately Euro 2 million, with operation and maintenance costs estimated at over Euro one million over a three-year period. These figures are to be considered estimates only; actual expenditures may be higher.

5. Comment. The UK Presidency of the EU has requested that funding options for the ISCE DB be included in the agenda for the JHA Troika to be held in Washington on October 6. USEU DOJ Senior Counsel Mark Richard played a key role as chair of Legal Working Group for the Study and will attend the Troika. While the USG will not be expected to make a precise financial commitment at the meeting, Interpol will be looking to Washington for a pledge of resource assistance to this important project. End comment.

McKinley

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